

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 997
By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Joseph "Corky" Coker
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Joseph "Corky" Coker, who was recently selected to receive the 2004 Meguiar's Award for Collector Car Person of the Year; and

WHEREAS, widely known as the consummate car hobbyist, he was selected from a large field of accomplished candidates by a committee of twenty-one leading automotive journalists; and

WHEREAS, he will be honored at a gala on June 19, 2004 at the Kodak Theater on Hollywood and Highland in Hollywood, California, where he will be presented a beautiful replica of the famous wooden sculpture created by the talented artist Dennis Hoyt known as Meguiar's Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coker is a fitting choice for the award, as he owns an impressive collection of fifty vintage automobiles and twenty antique motorcycles and is active in events ranging from the car shows at Carlisle and Hershey to the cross-country Great Race rally; and

WHEREAS, a life member of the Antique Automobile Club of America, he also helps to lead the charge against anti-hobby legislation nationwide; he currently serves as President of the Specialty Equipment Market Association, which is campaigning to monitor legislation at the state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the first President from the car hobby's restoration sector, he is a founding member of a key SEMA council, the Automotive Restoration Market Organization; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coker has earned the respect and admiration of the entire antique car industry; Barry Meguiar, President of Meguiar's, Inc., stated, "Corky Miller is the ultimate car guy. Corky's overwhelming enthusiasm and tireless efforts have impacted almost every segment of the collector car hobby. He has also proved to be one of our most effective speakers for protesting hobbyists' rights in the face of 'clunker bill' legislation"; and

WHEREAS, antique automobiles are not only a hobby for Mr. Coker but also a profession; he inherited his love of vintage cars from his father, Harold Coker, who founded Coker Tire Co. as an antique car tire specialist in 1958 from his B.F. Goodrich dealership in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the father-son duo has developed the company from a 500-square-foot department in that retail tire operation to the world's largest collector's vehicle tire supplier, with a 95,000-square-foot headquarters in six Chattanooga buildings and customers in thirty countries; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coker still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable causes as Kiwanis Club and Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce; he is also incredibly active with the Boy Scouts of America and has received that laudable organization's highest award for volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, he is actively involved in numerous faith-centered ministries; and

WHEREAS, his professional and civic accomplishments aside, he always strives to maintain the highest standard of family and community values; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coker is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Theresa, and he is the proud and devoted father of two children, Casey and Cameron; and

WHEREAS, Corky Coker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Coker for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Joseph "Corky" Coker on winning the 2004 Meguiar's Award for Collector Car Person of the Year, salute his personal, professional, and civic excellence, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.